

VOL. XI.

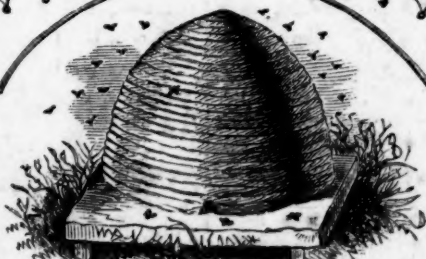
No. 1.

JANUARY, 1875.



THE
AMERICAN

BEE JOURNAL



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BEE CULTURE.

Established in 1861, by the late Samuel Wagner.

AND

The National Bee Journal,

CONSOLIDATED.

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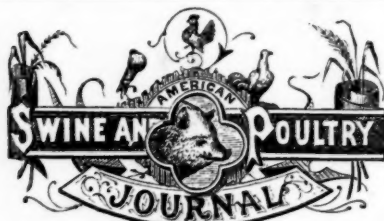
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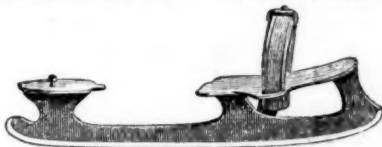
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H. HIX.

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AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL,

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO BEE CULTURE.

Vol. XI. CEDAR RAPIDS, JANUARY, 1875. No. 1.

American Bee Journal.

W. F. CLARKE,
MRS. E. S. TUPPER, } EDITORS.

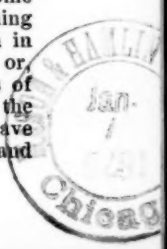
Bees and Flowers at Sydenham.

The following interesting paper is from the editorial columns of *The Farmer*, (English), of September 14th, 1874:

Tuesday was the first day of the exhibition held by the British Bee-Keeper's Association. The attendance at the Crystal Palace shewed that the bees, the botanical show, and the revived comedy of *Wild Oats*, in which Mr. Lionel Brough appeared, could draw a numerous crowd to Sydenham even in September. Suburban masters who keep bees, as they plant flowers, for the graceful adornment of their leisure, were present in numbers. The Beekeeper's Association proposes to its members this mission, and in one particular it specially recommends the co-operation of neighbours or the assistance of superiors. A honey-extractor is the most expensive machine in the beekeepers' plant. It is usually dispensed with, and the consequence is that from certain combs very pure virgin honey is got by the slow progress of straining; from others nothing can be obtained without relentless crushing of the cells, and the consequent vitiation of the honey by wax, bee-bread, and the bodies of undeveloped bees. The cheapest honey-extractor priced in the Association's catalogues is £2, 10s., and it is fair to presume that the best, which obtained the prize, and has no price affixed to it, is dearer. In a few minutes the extractor empties all the combs of the hive, and therefore it is not necessary for every cottager to keep one. But the village might subscribe for one, or some benevolent person might lend it. Lady Burdett-Coutts has already led the way in supplying swarms of bees gratuitously to labouring people on the sole condition that they shall pass on a swarm to their

neighbours when the profitable insects increase after their kind.

The principal apiarian operation of which examples were given by Mr. Abbott and Mr. Cheshire, and explained by Mr. Hunter, Mr. Hooker, Mr. Symington, and other members of the Provincial Committee, was the driving of bees, which includes a great many minor processes. A few puffs from a pipe caused the bees to retreat among the combs, and the hive was then gently inverted. Above it the new and empty hive was placed with its open end towards the former base of the inverted hive. Then the chief bee-master drummed with his fists upon the lower hive and waited for the rush. At the first disturbance the provident creatures, always (though their life in summer is but six weeks) in fear of a poverty-stricken old age, had hastened to fill their bags with honey. Thus they were heavy and good-tempered, and those who escaped through the gap between the two hives forbore to sting the unprotected face and hands of the bee-masters. In a few minutes a rushing sound was heard, the bees had begun the ascent; the queen passed up, the remainder was sure to follow her. It was now safe to incline the top hive backwards so that the spectators could see what was passing inside. Like soldiers swarming up the walls of a beleaguered city the bees were observed hurrying up in thousands, climbing over each other's bodies several deep, without paying the least attention to the facilities for escape which the open hive gave them. Then the combs were taken out of the old and deserted hive and put in frames into the "slinger" or extractor. A handle is turned and the comb flies rapidly round. Centrifugal action drives out all the honey from the cells; it drops to the bottom of the vessel, and passes thence into the jar placed to collect it. The next thing is to tie up with tape the old combs, some emptied of their honey, some remaining full, in new frames and to place them in the new hive. In twenty-four hours, or, at most, in forty-eight, the fastenings of the tape will become unnecessary, for the bees with cement and wax will have built the combs into the new frames and



will quickly proceed to fill them with honey. By thus making use a second time of the old combs the time of the bees is saved; and they give to honey-making precious days of summer which would otherwise be devoted to the building up of fresh waxen cells. The whole process which we have described lasted less than an hour.

The stationary exhibition of the association was scarcely less interesting. There were some bees here, but they were imprisoned closely within their glass house or observatory hive. Mr. C. W. Smith exhibited, and obtained a prize for, the most beautiful breed of Ligurian bees a queen accompanied by her progeny. There are fifty different kind of bees known to exhibitors, but the bee of the Maritime Alps which gained this prize is the most highly valued of all for its fine appearance, good temper, and reproductiveness. It is the "yellow-banded bee," of Tennyson, and is used to improve the strain of the common black bee. There are also exhibited here, the detached glass frames following each other like the leaves of a book, the frame hives as originally constructed by Francis Huber. The blind naturalist flourished at Geneva in the last century, and all his experiments were made with the eyes and hands of his assistant, Burnens, guided by the master's judgment. The frame is the key-stone of modern hive-building. The whole show is the development of the discovery of Huber. In the modern hives, bars of wood are laid across the top of a box, little slits are made in the lower side of the bars. In these slits wax is inserted. When the bees are admitted they find the wax, attach their combs to it, and these are thenceforth formed in straight lines, and are thus more convenient for the use and observation of man than the spoke-like and irregular arrangements which otherwise are made by the insects. Mr. F. Cheshire took the prize for the best hive frame with moveable combs. For the best cottager's hive on the modern principle the prize was awarded to the untiring Mr. Abbott's 3s. hive. Mr. J. Lee gained another prize in this class for a tall and handsome house of three stories, each story forming a super to the stock hive, or a new stock hive. There were in these classes innumerable ingenious combinations of detail and whimsical varieties of pattern. The bars are kept apart by pins in some hives, by notches in others. Some hives are made to imitate houses, others are like iron safes. One is a humble imitation of the great Palace of human industry and amusement in which it is exhibited.

The "run" honey which was shewn, varied in colour from the purest shade of primrose yellow to the darkest brown. It is well known that the hue depends upon the food of the bee, white clover producing a comb as white as snow, and primrose honey, while hives which stand near the sycamore will give a fluid as dark as punch. Mr. A. Ferguson, whose bees feed probably upon the clover fields of Ayr, the Hon. and Rev. H. Bligh, of Henley-on-Thames, and Mr. Abbott tied for the largest and best harvest of one stock of bees. The Rev. G. Raynor had the best exhibition of super honey from one apiary. The weight is not declared, but Mr. W. B. Carr competed in this class with a gross weight declared by him to be about 100 lb. Mrs. W. H. Clark exhibited the best straw super, probably about 40 lb. In a similar class the prize was taken by Mrs. Pagden, widow of the Sussex bee-master, who has told how he made £70 a year by his bees. In similar classes the name occurs of Mr. Cowan, who recently informed us that he had 700 lb of honey in the season from twelve stocks of bees; and we are struck with the frequent repetition of the name of Anderson, an Ayrshire family, one of whom came up from the neighbourhood of Stewarston, of honeyed fame, with thirty-four specimens of his own and neighbours' growth, and lost not one super by breakage or otherwise in all that journey.

In the cottagers' classes, open only to those who work for daily hire, there were twenty-two entries, and Mr. Withnal, Mr. Ferguson, and Mr. W. Martin were the most successful exhibitors. Mr. Cheshire obtained extra prizes for several ingenious inventions. With five pins he formed a little trap for keeping bees out of a hive where they are no longer wanted. The pin bisects the little hole left for egress, making a valve which may be lifted on going out but bars all return. There is a drone trap of different construction. Another invention is a nucleus hive. Where a queen is desired for adding to the stock, Mr. Cheshire puts in the hive a bar which can double up. When brood cells are attached to the bar he takes it out, and puts it into the nucleus hive. The bees transferred find themselves without a queen, and set to work to feed and house one of the young in such a way that it develops into a queen fit to fly abroad and become the mother of many bees.

Complete sets of back volumes are scarce. But few can be procured at any price. We have a set, consisting of the nine volumes (complete), which we offer for sale, either bound or unbound, for a reasonable sum.

Notes AND Queries

I wish you to answer through the JOURNAL if I had not better put my Italian colonies in hives with open bottoms; then in early spring, set them on other hives filled with empty combs, and have them work down through them. I use a double-hive, similar to the Langstroth. Will that not be the best and easiest way to have access to early brood, for queen raising, and disturb the arrangement of the colony less, than any other way? S. EMMONS.

Pottawattamie, Kan.

The way you speak of has been tried often in our own apiary, but we do not recommend it as being a good plan in early spring. Instead of that, we would keep the hive as tight and close as possible, with quilt, carpet, or mats on the top of the frames. As fast as two frames are tolerably well filled with brood, move them far enough apart to admit of placing an empty comb between the two, and repeat this in a few days. If a colony has a prolific queen and plenty of honey and bee bread, they will increase very rapidly in brood, if managed in this way. Later in the season a comb full of unsealed brood may be taken away every three days, and yet the colony keep strong.

After the weather is warm, if you do not care to have swarms, you can put a hive filled with comb under another hive to good advantage. We have had both hives in this way, filled with brood in July, and secured large amounts of box honey from them.

MRS. E. S. TUPPER:—I read in the proceedings of the Annual meeting of the Bee-Keepers' Society, that you have said that there is danger, in importing, of getting a taint of black stock; as they may have mixed some of the Egyptian blood; as I am just now holding, in the bee world, that there are no hybrid bees in Italy. I would be glad to know whether you have ever received tainted queens from Italy, and the name and address of the bee-keeper who sent them. Hoping to receive an answer from you, I am respectfully,

CH. DADANT.

We said no such thing as is reported of us at the convention. During the remarks on that point some one asked if the impurities which Mr. King and others were complaining about, might not be caused by a cross with the Egyptian instead of the black bee. We replied that it was not probable, as we had never heard that Egyptian bees had been at any time taken to Italy. Our remarks were all directed to the importance of taking more pains with the stock we have

already brought from Italy, and keeping it pure, while it would be improved by the influence of climate and new pasturage—the same as experience demonstrates, cattle, sheep and horses are improved.

Which is the best and cheapest mode of transportation, express, freight, or mail? Some bees have been received here by mail, all right. I suppose that is the cheapest way—cheaper to feed them than to have the whole hive sent by express. Is this idea correct? Is it fully settled that the Italians are the best bees on all accounts?

Colorado.

N. A. B.

We are sure you are mistaken about "colonies of bees being sent by mail." It cannot be done. Queens with a few bees accompanying them are often sent by mail safely, and it is perhaps as good a way as any to send them, if it can be made lawful to send them. At present the rules of the Post-office department forbid it. We have sent bees to Colorado safely, both by freight and express. If only one hive is sent at a time it would go better by express. If a number are sent together we would quite as soon risk them by freight.

It is fully settled by the vote of a large majority of those who have tried both varieties, that the Italians are best on all accounts.

As nearly as I can come at it, there are somewhere in the neighborhood of 80,000 stands in N. C. This is probably below the mark. But the losses of the two years past have been very considerable. Enough to reduce the round average by several thousands.

New Garden, N. C., A. E. KITCHEN.

We had no idea that so many bees were to be found in North Carolina. When improved modes of keeping bees are introduced there, with all the advantages they possess of soil and climate, we have little doubt that as large results as are reported from California will be obtained.

I send you a conundrum—one I cannot guess, if as you teach there is but one queen in a hive, and that every swarm that comes off has a queen. I had last May (the 25th) a nice swarm from one of my hives; saved it all right; two hours after, another swarm nearly as large came from the same hive! No mistake about it! I hived them both myself. How do you explain it?

Southern Illinois.

C. G.

It is not hard to explain. Your hive had, in some way, lost its old queen; she may have died, but from the fact of there being so many bees in the hives we judge that she came out with a swarm when you did not see her, was lost in some way, and the bees went back. They waited until the young queens in the hive were perfected and then swarmed. A young queen leading each swarm.

If there had been bad weather for a few days previous to the occurrence, it is possible that the swarm had been kept back so that a young queen hatched the same day the old queen left with the swarm.

This second solution is, however, not as probable as the first. Either may be the true one, however, without conflicting with the teachings of any practical bee-keeper.

Do you think my bees, prepared as you have advised for wintering, need water towards spring? I have left the caps on, with quilts under them over the frames. Have they sufficient ventilation?

Blair, Pa., F. M. G.

They need no water. Do not disturb them in any way until you set them out in the spring.

As to ventilation, we have always left off the caps from the hives. Others report good results, who have left them on, just as you described. We are inclined to think that when the quilts are on, they need less ventilation than we supposed formerly.

We saw a hive last spring on the top of which (the quilt being on) another hive had been set, and remained so all winter, cutting off entirely any upward ventilation. We thought it would be ruined, but it was to our surprise in good order; bees lively, and combs free from mould, with some brood in them. The quilt, however, was as wet as if it had been wrung out of water. Our inference is that, it would have been better, had the cap been on that hive. In that case the quilt would have been dry; but it shows also that there is air enough in a cap for all premises.

Mrs. TUPPER:—I am indebted to you for the information I have, and shall give; for if I get my bees safely through the winter, it will be entirely due to the advice I have received from your writings. All I see from your pen seems to be to the point. Too many connect their advice with the advertisement of a patent hive, or something else, and it sounds too much like the old Deacon who said "he knew there was a reality in religion as well as he knew he had flour to sell at four dollars and a half a barrel." In describing my bees, I forgot to mention one thing which I am not certain about, and that is, I have stopped the entrance nearly up—so close that a bee cannot get out with a view to stop a draft of air. The theory which I have adopted, after reading your articles in the Bee Journals, is, that there should be upward ventilation to let the moisture escape, but if it is left open below the heat of the bees will cause the air to ascend, and cold air rush in below, and in order to keep up the necessary heat, will make an increased consumption of honey.

O. B. BURROWS.

Close the entrance except a passage for a bee or two at a time, just so they know they can get out, if they wish. Then with the quilts on there will be no draught.

Our great want here is a plant that will produce honey from the 1st to the middle of June. For two seasons now I have had to feed in June. It looks to me like the wrong time of year to have to feed strong stocks.

Riverton, Iowa. ED. WELLINGTON.

While we lived in Washington county, we always sowed buckwheat as soon as possible in the spring. It would bloom in time to just fill in that time of scarcity which is a trouble in many parts of the West. Some years it is true, there seemed little honey in it; other seasons, it was very valuable.

We are told that rape and rapp may be made to bloom early in June. We have not tried it. Will some suggest a plant that blooms at that season.

If bees are not gathering honey from 1st to 15th of June, it "pays" to feed them then, above all other times. You will then have them in good condition for the best honey yield, which comes late in June, lasting until the middle of July.

Is there any way to evaporate honey that has been extracted before capping?

I have heard of setting it near a fire, where it will keep warm, in a wide mouthed can or jar with netting tied over it, but this seems a very slow way.

I have heard, also, of evaporating in shallow pans in the oven; but when we have one or two thousand lbs. to evaporate, this method is impracticable, it is said, also, that heat destroys its flavor. Is this correct? How would it do to put it in a large but shallow kettle, and heat it up almost to the boiling point, and let it stand there for—how long?

There would be some danger of burning it, I suppose. Here in Texas the time saved in uncapping is a great desideratum; we have no expert cappers here; ask a good hand opening can keep two of our best hands capping.

B. H. IVES.

We have no experience in the matter and cannot think it pays to take honey from the hives until at least, it is ready to be sealed over. Others may know more about it than we do, and to them we will leave this correspondent.

Cincinnati Industrial Exposition.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 29, 1874.

To the Board of Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN, Being appointed jurors in Department B, Class 21, we have examined the different entries for competition, and report as follows:

Best Apiary of not less than 50 hives. *Silver medal.* J. S. Hill, of Mt. Healthy, Hamilton Co., O.

Best Apiary of not less than 10 hives. *Bronze medal.* Jos. A. Savage, Ludlow, Ky.

Best Honey Extractor. *Bronze medal.* Henry W. Stephenson, Cincinnati, O.,

Best Display of Honey in Comb. *Ronze medal.* James H. Anderson, Hillsboro, O.

Best Display of Extracted Honey. *Bronze medal.* Chas. T. Muth, Cincinnati, O.

RICHARD L. CURRY, } Jurors.
HOWELL GANO. }

Foreign Department.

CONDUCTED BY CH. DADANT.

Who is there that would not have followed with interest the discussion on the copulation and laying of the mother bee, that had been begun at the Saltzbourg meeting? At the receipt of each number of the *Bienen Zeitung* I thought that the minds of the opponents were becoming more excited, but I was mistaken. Mr. Collin abandoned the battle field and withdrew from the stand, so that Mr. Huber remained alone. Later the *Bienen Zeitung* published several articles on this question, but nobody treated it in a complete manner, so that the question remains as it was in the beginning, when taken in a practical view.

I write this essay to conduct the novice on the track, through which he will be able to form an opinion, helping it with experiments and observations. In order to ascertain at what age the heat begins in the young queen it is necessary to know at what time she has left the cell.

Generally, a mother bee becomes developed into a perfect insect within 16 or 17 days from the time when the egg is laid, if properly attended to.

If properly attended to, the larvæ is developed in three days.

In well stocked colonies and during an abundant harvest, I have seen the larvæ hatch after after two days and 4 hours. In a temperature of 32 to 33 degrees (centigrade) I have seen the larvæ hatch after 2 days and 6 hours. In artificial swarms made with brood combs, in which the brood was but thinly covered with bees, the larvæ often hatched on the 4th or 5th day after being laid.

In a colony that had suddenly become weak, some of the eggs did not hatch for a week until this same colony had become strong again and the bees were able to attend to their hatching. I will simply mention the fact that bee-eggs that have been deprived of sufficient heat are still capable of becoming developed after 10 or 12 days.

As the egg needs no nourishment but requires only heat to become a living being, the duration of time in which the larvæ becomes developed in the egg depends on the brooding, that is on the degree of heat that the bees produce in the brood chamber. We can assert that, as a general rule, the larvæ leaves the egg in three days.

In too high a temperature all organic life ceases. There is undoubtedly also for bee-eggs a maximum of heat that can-

not be exceeded. Bees do not produce in the interior of the hive such a degree of heat that the eggs lose their capacity of becoming developed; I think that the highest temperature in which they still become developed is 37 to 38 deg. (centigrade—98 to 100 Farh.). This supposition is based on the observation that such a heat is about the highest that can be supported in the hive when the sun strikes it. I made the same observations on butterfly eggs. Such experiments cannot be tried with bee's eggs as the wax melts. These eggs assuredly would perish rapidly in a temperature of 50 deg. fah.

It results from the above remarks that it will always be impossible to establish in every case the length of time in which the larvæ becomes developed in the egg. Generally, the royal larvæ lives 5 days and 12 hours in the open cell.

If it is not a small affair to establish the length of time during which the egg becomes changed to larvæ, it is yet much more difficult to determine positively the period during which the larvæ lives in the open cell. Let the reader make minute observations on the subject and publish them in this paper, for it is precisely on this question that there is least known. Francis Huber, of Geneva, says that the royal larvæ remains in the open cell for five days. According to my observations which differ but a few minutes from those of Van Berlepsch, the royal larvæ remains in its open cradle 5 days and 12 hours, supposing that the temperature is regular and that the larvæ is amply fed. When I removed the comb containing the uncapped royal cells once an hour for two days to inspect it, I found that these royal cells were sealed over only 5 to 8 hours later. Afterwards I removed from the hive some combs containing royal larvæ, I removed the bees and placed one of these combs in an empty hive for 24 hours. I obtained in this hive a temperature of 23 to 26 deg. by means of heated bricks. After this time, I returned this comb to the colony and those cells were sealed 14 hours, and in several cases 15 hours, later than they should have been if in normal conditions.

It results from these experiences, that the royal larvæ becomes developed more slowly and are therefore sealed more tardily, when the necessary attentions have been interrupted and when food is given them after a prolonged interruption. It is known by everybody that royal larvæ requires more than the usual time for their development when raised in an artificial swarm that cannot produce the necessary heat for the brood.—*F. W. Vogel, in Bienen Zeitung.*

The Hen and the Honey-Bee.

(AN APOLOGUE—FROM THE GERMAN OF GELLETT.)

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

A lazy *Hen*—the story goes—
Loquacious, pert, and self-conceited,
Espied a *Bee* upon a rose,
And thus the busy insect greeted :

"Say, what's the use of such as you,
(Excuse the freedom of a neighbor!)
Who gad about, and never do
A single act of useful labor ?

"I've marked you well for many a day,
In garden blooms and meadow-clover;
Now here, now there, in wanton play;
From morn to night an idle rover.

"While I discreetly bide at home ;
A faithful wife—the best of mothers ;
About the fields you idly roam,
Without the least regard for others.

"While I lay eggs and hatch them out,
You seek the flowers most sweet and fragrant,
And, sipping honey, stroll about, [rant,
At best a good-for-nothing vagrant !"

"Nay," said the *Bee*, "you do me wrong ;
I'm useful too, perhaps you doubt it,
Because—though toiling all day long—
I scorn to make a fuss about it !

"While you, with every egg that cheers
Your daily task, must stop and hammer
The news in other peoples' ears,
Till they are deafened with the clamor !

"Come now with me, and see my hive,
And note how folks may work in quiet ;
To useful arts much more alive
Than you with all your cackling riot !"

L'ENVOI.

The *Poet*, one may plainly see
Who reads this fable at his leisure,
Is represented by the *Bee*,
Who joins utility to pleasure ;
While in this self-conceited *Hen*,
We note the *Poet's* silly neighbor,
Who thinks the noisy "working-men"
Are doing all the useful labor !

For The American Bee Journal.

Handling Bees.

I commenced helping my father handle bees in the summer of 1818. I have handled them in the old way, most of the time. I have a few gums of my own getting up, that I can go to, and in one minute, have them open, lift the frames, and give them a thorough examination. Long since I found that one should move slow around the hives, and if the bees should surround him or even come within an inch of his nose, he should be composed. If he should get angry the bees will know it and reciprocate it, and so will they know if you are at ease with them. When you open the hive, if they seem angry or are disturbed a few puffs of smoke will entirely subdue them, and you can proceed with your examination. J. FROST.
Gillespie, Ill.

For the American Bee Journal.

Success in Raising Honey.

We have often spoken of the business of bee-keeping and raising honey as one of certain profit when conducted as it should be.

An apiarian should have a taste for honey raising, he should have a practical knowledge of the business to go into it on a large scale, so as to make a business of it. It is very easy to keep a few hives, but to conduct business on a large scale requires a person of mind, for the study of the habits of this little wondrous creature is a most truly interesting and at the same time a most gratifying one, and when understood, the business can be made very profitable.

The largest apiaries in this state are at Sandiago and at Los Angeles, the southern countries are very favorable for the raising of bees and making honey, as many wild flowers and bee feeding trees, shrubs and plants are found there in great abundance.

Very recently we had an interview with Mr. J. B. Harbison, the well known apiarian, formerly of Sacramento, but now permanently located at San Diego, where he is carrying on a very large and very successful apiary. Mr. H. was in this city with three car loads of his honey destined for Chicago and the East. Mr. H. had already sent six car loads, and anticipates sending six car loads more this season, thus making twelve car loads of honey from one apiary, this looks like business.

We remember well the early days when Mr. Harbison began the bee business with a very few hives, brought here via the Isthmus, at heavy cost, at a time when a hive of bees sold quick at \$100 to \$50 each.

Mr. Harbison has now at San Diego two thousand hives of bees, these are principally the Italian bees, as they are much superior to the black bee.

In addition to the large amount of honey raised by Mr. H., and it is about 100 tons, Mr. H. makes 1,000 lbs. of beeswax. Mr. Harbison went East with his late shipment, taking it in his own charge.

A. G. Clark, Esq., formerly a partner of Mr. Harbison, has also a large apiary, nearly as extensive as that of Mr. H.

For a person of the right turn of mind and a very little capital, we know of no occupation or business more interesting, or one more certain to make good returns than that of raising bees and making honey. There will always be a market for good honey here, and a certain fair return for it when shipped abroad. All that is needed to insure a complete success is a little capital, intelligence, a willingness and readiness to be industrious as the bee, and success is sure.

We would commend our lower counties, San Diego, Los Angeles, and all along that line of country.

We can always give valuable information on this subject, as we are practically in it in this city, where bees do remarkably well, as we can show.—*California Farmer*.

A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD SWARM OF BEES.
—Early in July, 1859, I put a swarm of bees in a common box hive made of rough hemlock boards 12 inches square by 15 inches high. From this hive has issued a swarm every year until now. SOL. CRANDELL.
Chatham Village, Col. Co., N. Y.

For the American Bee Journal.

Eccentric.

Now Mr. Editor: did you ever? The old reliable AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL has had it's "Novice," "Amateur," "Tyro," "Foggy," "Beginner," and many others whom we don't recall; and now here comes another *non de plume* in the way of an "Eccentric." Well, it takes all sorts of people to make a world, they say, and we don't know of any good reason why the bee-keeping world should not have an "Eccentric" as well as other people. So please don't laugh at our queer ideas and awkward movements, lest we become embarrassed ere we become waywised in our new relation, for, to tell you the plain truth, we must confess to feeling a little shaky in the *role* of newspaper correspondent. We realize our own limited attainments while in the company of the brilliant, racy writers of the old A. B. J. and really are not sure that we'll be seen at all amid so many great lights, whose brilliancy outshines all smaller luminaries. But, pleading our youthful years in extenuation of mistakes and blunders, we'll try and behave properly, doing the best we can.

By the way, what has become of all our old writers who used to entertain us so often and well? Where is Gallup? Has he engaged in the production of corn so extensively, (that yields honey the whole year 'round) that he can find no leisure to tell us of his big feats in bee-keeping? Or has he found a problem in that big, long, hive which he's unable to solve?

And Novice. He too, used to amuse "us little folks" with his funny stories, and numerous experiments. We suppose he's *gleaning* the fields of Medina Co. and really has no time to tell us of what he's doing. Or it may be his "mission in life" has been accomplished, now that the "patent-right fellows" have subsided.

And where is Quinby with his plain practical ideas and large common sense; Adair, with his ponderous, jaw-breaking names and brilliant "new ideas;" Dadant whose extensive, accurate knowledge and terse, vigorous sentences were always read with avidity; Argo who always had something good to say, and knew how to say it well; Burch who once wrote regularly, and usually to the point; and many others, "too numerous to mention." Can't they be induced to resume the pen once more? We trust they may.

We notice that some of the Journal's correspondents have been bothered in getting the pay for their honey. To toil and sweat through the hot summer months to get a nice pile of honey, trusting that the proceeds in the fall, from its sale, will remunerate us for all our hard work, and then be cheated out of a portion or all of our money, by a dishonest honey merchant, may be a nice thing for the latter gentlemen, but we don't exactly appreciate it. In fact it's a transaction that is becoming so frequent that some means should be devised to put an end to it. What we, as bee-keepers, need to-day above everything else, is, some good, sure market for our honey at a fair price, *in cash paid on delivery*.

The cold and chilling winds of spring may decimate the ranks of "bee-don;" heat and lack of moisture may cut short the summer pasturage. This we can and do bear uncom-

plainingly. But to lose what honey we do get, through the dishonest, thieving propensity of some city dealer is a little too much; it's the one step from the sublime to the ridiculous. This may be considered plain talk, and we are inclined to think so too. We always try to speak intelligibly, ever aiming to tell the truth. Now, we by no means wish to be "understood that we deem all men (and women) who solicit consignments of our honey, as belonging to that class of people who wish to avoid paying for what they buy. Not at all. But there are people of this class, and we would denounce them in unsparring terms. We know of no better way to make them honest, than to advise people to avoid them altogether. In this connection we would caution all our readers about selling to a New York honey house "on time," unless the parties who run it have a little more regard for their dealing than a Chicago honey house, you'll be apt to lose by it. We've been there and "know how it is ourselves." And "Eccentric" isn't the only person who has lost money by dealing with these same parties.

The season just closed, has been rather a dull one in our locality. Bees came through the winter in poor condition, faucity of numbers being the rule; while the fearful months of April and May, just did a sweeping business in the diminution of the remnants of what once were, powerful colonies. June was warm and balmy, but the avidity of the atmosphere "played smash" with our honey prospects, though our little "baby colonies" increased in stature with such celerity that with the advent of the linden blossoms on the 8th of July, they were "forty thousand strong" and ready for conquest. Ah! yes, they were ready, but the linden hadn't any idea of being pumped of its delicious nectar; and after "making believe" for sixteen days—days of anxious, weary waiting for the good time a coming, ever waiting, but never appearing—doffed its millions of tiny, pendent blossoms, and bid farewell to honey and 1874. And thus it was during the remainder of the season, save that boneset furnished us with enough liquid for colds, croup and catarrh, the concomitants of Northern winters. (By the way have our readers ever investigated the medicinal properties of the various kinds of honey? If any of you are ailing, we'd advise you too.) And so we've got but little honey, and as honey is low and dull we've surely got less money; but we have got a few bees left to die off next winter when old bores and the "bee-disease" make their annual appearance.

Mr. Editor: we said honey was low, and the probability of it commanding still lower prices in the future, stares us squarely in the face. Now, as consumers of honey pay just about as much money for the article as formerly, we'd really like to know what's the matter. Isn't the solution of the problem to be found in the fact that honey dealers are constantly endeavoring to depress prices so as to purchase from the producer at the lowest possible figures. By keeping the price to the consumer up to the old figures, of course the profits of the business are augmented. Now what earthly use is there in giving all the profits to some honey houses why not adopt the Granger's principle of selling direct to the consumer, and save our hard earned shillings, while the consumer will be benefitted by lower prices

and a purer article? Of course, if we raise numberless tons of golden nectar, it may be necessary for us to secure the aid of the "middle-men," but make him do the business, on not extortionate principles. We said that the consumer would get a purer article at a lower price. Of course we can afford to sell at a cheaper rate than the consumer has usually paid, and at the same time, sell him something besides sugar and glucose. It seems to us that there should be a distinction between the products of an apiary and a honey-house. Consumers should note this point; for, while the former represents the delicious nectar of nature's laboratory, the latter conveys a strong impression of the conglomeration of a variety of saccharine substances, of which honey forms an insignificant proportion. In recently passing over the Michigan Central R. R., we stopped off at Dowagiac to visit Michigan's rising apiarian, Mr. James Heddon. We were much pleased with his apiary and its arrangements; and also were particularly impressed with the correctness of his ideas upon the above subject. He thinks that extracted honey is having a hard time of it, when compelled to compete with the sugar works of New Orleans and the glucose factories of France. We are glad to add that he, is doing good work in redeeming the good name of extracted honey, by furnishing the consumer with a neat, pure article at living prices.

Mr. Editor, haven't you been bothered so much with the hive controversy as to be out of all manner of patience with the patent-right chaps? Well, we just want to say a word or two on hives, and as we've no "right" to sell or give away, please tolerate us just a few minutes. Long idea hives had been lauded to the skies and their praise vociferated the wide world over, so we, too, must have 'em. Well we've got 'em, and now if we could only find the man who invented them, we'd be most terribly tempted to call him—well, we won't say what, but 'twould not be pretty, we can assure you. The simple truth, plainly told, is this: these great, long, ungained, ill-shaped monstrosities of a bee-hive are unmitigated humbugs, both theoretically and practically. Adair may tell us of the obvious advantages to be derived from using a hive ten feet long; that we may increase the fertility of the queen; Gallup may triumphantly point us to his 800 pounds of liquid from one hive in a single season. Novice can predict that these fearful "new ideas" will 'ere long, rule the (bee) world. But why won't Adair have the kindness to say that he loses more than 90 per cent of his bees in winter; Gallup the manliness to frankly state that he can get his 800 pounds from the same number of combs in smaller hives and with much greater certainty; and Novice the candor to admit that he hasn't used such hives at all. These rose-colored pictures of long, one story hives, are evanescent bubbles ready to explode upon practical experiment and investigation. They offer no possible advantage over smaller hives, while they are deficient in many prime requisites which small hives possess. And if any "new idea" advocate wishes to "go for us" because of our heresy in this particular, let him "pitch in."

And now in conclusion, we must confess to having been a trifle belligerent, perhaps, but will try henceforth, to be a steady sober

ECCENTRIC.

For the American Bee Journal.

A Home-Made Bee Hive.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* gives such plain directions for making a bee hive that every boy on a farm with a bit of a taste for mechanics can readily make one for his own bees. He says: In the first place you want rabets, half an inch deep, at each end of the hive, to receive the ends of the frame; next you want your frames made true so that they will hang plumb in the hive. There should be one frame for every inch and a half of space in the width of your hive. Next prepare your bottom board and lay it level. Put your hive on the board so that the frames will run from front to rear; then elevate your hive about three inches, and your hive is ready for the bees. Make your frames just three-fourths of an inch shorter than the inside of your hive, and have them so that they will not touch at either end nor swing against each other. I have a center opening that is very convenient, and different from any that I have seen.

I wish it understood that when I raise the rear of the hive, I raise the bottom board with it. If your hive leans to one side, the bees will build across the frame. I have my bees in a yard, and each hive is covered with a cover made by nailing two boards together and resting it on the top of the hive. I make the top board of my hive in three pieces, by nailing two cleats on the top of them, and making two holes to run across the frames, each hole six inches long. This is to make room for the bees to pass into the surplus honey-boxes. When the boxes are on, the cover alluded to rests on the box.

G. LONG.

For the American Bee Journal.

A few Remarks.

I find different writers in our bee journals and standard books, published for our instruction, often come in conflict on questions of some interest and information to the bee keeping community.

There has been considerable written on the subject of the Italian and native bees in comparison with each other.

With regard to their peaceable and quiet disposition, I have read remarks by some giving preference to the Italians as altogether more peaceable than the native, and that they would hardly ever use the sting, if treated with gentleness. Some have given the hybrids the name of being the cross-est and most difficult to manage.

W. M. Kellogg, in your October number, tells us: "Many say that Italians are not so cross in brushing off the combs as hybrids and blacks, but we don't find it so. We have handled a good many stocks this season, of all three kinds; and when we come to the extracting, give us the hybrids and blacks in preference to the Italians, every time." * * and the worst stinging we have had this summer, has been by Italians."

I think that a little reflection will satisfy us that the three kinds will probably ply their different weapons when rudely assaulted; and that under quiet and gentle treatment we may succeed, with little trouble, with either of the three.

I confess I have never discovered any marked difference in the three varieties, in this particular.

Again, it has been claimed by some that the Italians will gather more honey than the black bees. There has been so much said in their favor, and they look so handsome, I think if a colony of equal strength of each kind was offered me for choice, I should take the Italian.

It may, probably, be favorable to make such a change as their education among our native bees will effect. The largest amount of box honey I ever secured as surplus from one hive, in one season, (200lb), was by hybrids. The largest amount I ever secured, except in that instance, was by a colony of natives (174lb). It was in different seasons, and in different fields—hardly admitting of any satisfactory or certain comparison.

From my experiments, thus far, I have no doubt that much more depends upon the character of the hive, than of the question which variety of bees are employed. The most important point to secure is the largest force of workers, through the honey season.

Take a hive in the early part of the season and divide it into three or four colonies, and little surplus must be expected. With all the workers operating in one hive, a handsome surplus may be secured.

My doctrine is,—Secure a large working force by removing all disposition to swarm from the abundant box room, given in intimate connection with and easy entrance from the breeding apartment, and secure from 100 to 200 pounds of box honey from each colony. Let others do better than can.

JASPER HAZEN.

Woodstock, Vt.

For the American Bee Journal.

Superior Fiddlesticks.

In the December No. of the JOURNAL, friend Ross pitches into me, and says: "are there not too many that have nothing to report but their failures, after trying to keep the Italian bees pure?" And, "will our learned friend, W. M. Kellogg, please state the condition those four insignificant black stocks were in at the time his Italian queens became fertile?"

I do not know what condition they were in at the time, for they were a neighbor's stocks, and I had nothing to do with them. But I know that they were medium strong stocks, and but one of them cast a swarm. But their condition just then hasn't much to do with it, for it was not only at that time that the Italian queens were mated with black drones, but *all the season through*, when they had no need for their drones.

At the time I wrote, but a few queens had been raised, but later a good many have been raised, and some quite late in the season, and fully three-fourths (¾) of the Italian queens were mated with black drones, weeks after the blacks were done raising queens; when, according to friend Ross, they should be out of condition, but still we were "troubled with black drones." With one exception none of us were trying to keep the Italians pure, had no black drones of our own, but plenty of Italian drones. One person was raising queens, and of course wanted to keep them pure. Tried to buy the black stocks of the owner, or put in

Italian queens, but he'd have none of it. So we had to run our chances. We kept our Italians in good condition, saved all the drone brood we could get, and I cut out and gave to my friend several sheets of Italian drone brood, so that we had thousands of drones flying. Besides, I killed a great many black drones while transferring one of the four black stocks, and still we were troubled with black drones, to the extent of three-fourths (¾) of our queens.

I think now as I did then, "Superior fiddlesticks."

"What kind of bees has K. got?"

The same kind as you have probably, at any rate they have got legs, wings, stingers, etc., and gather honey etc., when there is any to get. Any one who has noticed bees clustering in front of the hive during warm weather, has seen flies around them too: drawn there by the scent of the hive, trying to get in, and continually on the jump to keep out of the bee-guards way. Then it was the chickens walked up and introduced the flies down their throats, and I never noticed more than one or two that got stung.

Our bees are very quiet, generally, and friend Ross could step up and pick out the flies himself without being stung.

I think it would not be a good plan for any one to put a chicken inside of his hive if living near to friend Ross, for if he is as fond of chickens as he says, he'd "go for" the chicken if he had to take bees and all. Brother bee-keepers, keep an eye on your hen roosts.

W. M. KELLOGG.

Oneida, Ill.

For the American Bee Journal.

New Bee Pasturage.

I have been keeping bees in a limited way for the past 27 years, but the number of my colonies never exceeded 40 or 50, until the past season. In the mean time, my experience has met with occasional drawbacks and losses, but I have made the business of producing honey a success, and therefore feel encouraged in my old days to expand it a little.

I have been using the Langstroth hive mostly, but I prefer the large Trellis hive of Mr. Simons, of Fairfield, Iowa; in which I find no difficulty in wintering on summer stands. My Langstroth hives I have to store away in a dark, dry cellar, to keep them safely through the winter.

In my bee yard I have growing a few bunches of a perennial plant known here as the "pleurisy root." It is a pretty and fragrant blooming plant, upon which the bees cluster busily for more than a month, and do not forsake it until the bloom is entirely gone. What are they after? Honey, pollen, or both?

I consider it worthy of cultivation for bee pasturage. What do our experienced bee-men know about it? Will they answer through the JOURNAL.

DANIEL RIDER.

Fairfield, Iowa.

No other branch of industry can be named in which there need be so little loss on the material employed, or which so completely derives its profits from the vast and exhaustless domains of nature, as bee culture.

For the American Bee Journal.
Upright Ventilation.

Bees have done better this year than they have for several years past. Two-thirds of them died in this county, last winter, on account of not giving them upright ventilation. The frost accumulated in the hive until the bees were frozen, in a solid mass. The first warm day they would thaw and fall down dead, and leave plenty of honey. Some old fogies came to me to know what was the matter with their bees. They died with plenty of honey. I replied, nothing but laziness. Had you done as I told you, you would have had all of your bees now! "Oh," said they, "they died with some disease. I know they did, for they had plenty of honey left. Did not your's die?" "No, not one. I fixed them, as I told you to do. Take off all the honey; then pack the top of the hive with corn cobs, just high enough so your cap will cover them; put 2 one inch holes in your hive, one on each side, cover well, and your bees will be all right next spring, on their summer stands."

We have quite a large bee firm here. It consists of some 200 persons. They all belong to the Methodist Church. Their church has a very tall slender steeple. On their church, about 20 feet from the top are 4 small holes; left for ventilating the steeple. Above those holes the cross timbers are so close together, that I can scarcely get my hand through. Above this is a large space 4 feet at the bottom, and running up to a sharp point. A large swarm of bees have been working all summer. How long they have been there I don't know; the members all, claim to be members of a new bee firm.

Council Bluffs, Iowa.

II. FAUL.

For the American Bee Journal.
My Method.

The philosophy of my method I believe to be this: The bees when hived in an empty hive, want brood-comb first; and being cramped for room, starts combs in little bits near together, along all the triangular guides which they join at the edges before they have extended them so far as to get them materially diverged from line. I have sometimes, (though seldom) had them wavy, and if the frames are not properly spaced, they will build to one side, and get irregular. The difficulty which causes this is having established their brood nest; the next thing is, to store, for which they need room.

Having filled the cells adjoining the brood, they lengthen the cells next a vacant space, before starting comb on the next frame, so that they have to set off a proper distance. Or having started rightly, in extending comb edgewise, they come to the lengthened cells, and diverge from line, to avoid crowding, and obtain room for full length cells next to lengthened ones. This tendency to lengthen cells, adjoining a vacant space, continues; and the further they go, the worse they get.

Of course as soon as they get well started they should have additional room; but here comes another difficulty, growing out of this same tendency to lengthen cells for storage. In building on the frames inserted between

those started, they are apt to come in contact with those lengthened on the adjoining frames, and hence have to make short cells to preserve space between combs, which gives irregular surface. This has to be remedied by so placing them between straight combs as that they will properly lengthen the short cells on the new comb; but by inserting the new frames as needed between broad combs or sealed cells, this difficulty is largely avoided.

I made the discovery accidentally by placing two very large swarms in one hive in a hurry, when they were coming fast, and the next day having some friends call, and wishing to show them what my big swarm had done, I opened them and found the state of things described above. The hive used was six and one-half deep, $14\frac{1}{2}$ in width, taking 21 inch frames and they had as stated above, stacked combs close together the whole length of all the 10 frames.

This was a grand success under difficulties, which I had found so great that I had begun to think camb frames and modern bee-keeping a humbug. I acted on the suggestion and had no farther difficulty; observation and reflection have convinced me that the theory I have given you is correct. At all events the method succeeds.

Douglass, Mich.

II. HUDSON.

For the American Bee Journal.
Queen Raising.

I promised to give more facts on queen-raising, in my last letter. This is the main point in bee-keeping; if every bee-keeper sells full colonies or queens it would give them a better reputation. If you send for good stocks of course you want a young and profitable queen. If I pay the owner the price he asks for good colonies, has he a right to send it with a worn-out queen, that I have to try 8 or 10 days or a month to raise; when I have paid for a good hive. Such men should be published through the JOURNAL, so that strangers may know them.

After every stock had a good queen, they became strong and yielded over 5 per cent; I had from one good swarm, in 8 Langstroth hives. Sold 2 queens (\$5) and about 9 gallons of Extracted Honey, at 25 cents per lb. I had a swarm that was weak in the spring that did not give quite so much.

JOHN P. GRUNTHIER.

Theresa, Wis.

For the American Bee Journal.
The Tulip Tree Again.

On page 223, October No. of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, I notice an article from the pen of J. Ralston Wells, upon the value of the tulip as a honey producing tree. As he says there are many making inquiries how they may be obtained, I will take this method of informing the readers of the JOURNAL that I can furnish a few hundred of the young trees—1, 2, and 3 years old. The tulip tree will not grow from cuttings, but lives readily when transplanted, from 1 to 5 years old. Older than two years would be unhandy and difficult to ship long distances.

W. E. FREEMAN.

Olustee Creek, Pike Co., Ala.

For the American Bee Journal.

Alsike Clover in the South.

Having had several years' experience with this specie of clover, I trust some of my conclusions may be of value to a portion of your readers.

Alsike produces more honey than white clover and continues much longer in blossom. The honey is of a good quality, a little higher colored than that of the white clover and not quite so delicate in flavor. It branches like red clover, and the same stock will often have at the same time many ripe heads, and even to the embryo bud, so that when the crop is cut for seed, the straw makes a second quality of hay if well cured. Horses, cattle and sheep are fond of it for hay or grazing.

I sow about five pounds of seed to the acre, with the same quantity of timothy. It makes better hay than the red clover, though not so productive. It does best on moderately moist soil. If grown with timothy for seed, the latter should be cradled before the Alsike is cut. Sorrel and other small seeds should be carefully sifted out. After Alsike is threshed out, but before it is ground out of the hull.

In my opinion every bee keeper should try Alsike clover for his bees. I say try, for I am not confident that it will succeed in sandy soil at the South. E. NEED.

For the American Bee Journal.

Whistling Down Swarms.

Mr. George T. Hammond, of North Bergen, N. Y., (a successful and progressive bee-keeper) tells me that he practices whistling down swarms, and has never failed in causing them to alight, since becoming acquainted with this method of arresting their flight. His attention was first called to whistling for them, in this way. A neighbor had a swarm that were flying over. Being asked how he stopped them, he replied "the boy whistled them down," but would or could not tell how he did it. Mr. Hammond says he did not take any further notice of it, till the subject was again called to his attention by reading in the proceedings of the Bee-Keeper's Convention, that a gentleman stated that he could control a swarm of bees on the wing by whistling to them, and by request gave a specimen whistle, which was pronounced by the reporter to be indescribable upon paper.

My informant, at the proper season, practiced and hit upon a sound which seems to have the desired effect and can be tested by any person of ordinary whistling abilities. As I heard him repeat the sound I should describe it as not being very peculiar, but a brisk modulated repetition of whist-whist-whist.

Now if this whistling theory is a success, how superior it is to all other known methods for stopping absconding swarms. What easy control it would give to the apiarian over his bees, during the swarming season. How easily "Novice" or P. G. could have stopped that swarm of Italians led off by "Giantess." This running through the house pell-mell kicking over the stool and scalding the cat, in your efforts to pull the looking glass from its hangings, mean-

while one of your largest swarms may be doing its level best for the woods—and then when you think you have your glass in position find the sun does not shine, or is disappearing behind a cloud, is not just the thing to preserve that mental equilibrium said to be so necessary in handling bees.

My object in writing this article is to broach the subject, and get reports from others who have tried the experiment; as I cannot confirm Mr. Hammond's success by my own experience, not having any confidence in my whistling abilities to imitate the call of the queen, yet think if I were again to go through the past season's labors in the apiary I should attempt some tall whistling when seeing swarms making for the woods, and I without means to hinder their progress. C. R. ISHAM.

For the American Bee Journal.

Dysentery Again.

Bidwell's paper, as printed in the November No., will create a general row among bee-keepers, and no doubt new ideas and profitable experiments will be discovered. The discovery of bees flying under glass will be of great importance for bee-keepers who are in a very windy situation, like myself. Last year every one wintered his bees so well out-doors and in cellars that no complaints about dysentery were heard off; but I fear very much if Bidwell's plan, when tested with bees having the dysentery, may yet prove a failure; because the space being so small they will smear each other so much that nearly all will be soiled. I find in time of dysentery that there is always a great loss of bees, partly through weakness and by the smearing of their wings in their first flight.

Last year my bees soiled the snow but very little, and the consumption of honey was very small. By the burning of my farm, and the lack of time in October and November to feed them, I was compelled to feed every week all through the winter; so every Saturday afternoon I examined frame after frame, as in mid-summer, to see what honey they had, to prevent starvation.

Sugar syrup in bulk they would not take. I must coax them in every manner. By care and continual feeding they came through in good condition, although they had to coil over the top of the frames once a week, and I got a good deal of stinging too. No man was ever bothered so much with his bees during winter. Had I given strained honey it might have been quite different. Novice mentions that dysentery is often attributed to the quality of the honey. That is my opinion and experience.

In Belgium the honey season is over with August; many bee-keepers instead of killing them put several stocks together, these new hives are sent to the province of Antwerp where one-half of the State is very barren, but a low brush is found from which the bees gather fall honey. Some years, in wet seasons they gather very little, and some years enough is stored to winter on. Now many bee-keepers, and myself among them, have never been able to winter a colony without dysentery. It is a common saying that the honey of this flower is too hot to winter them. I believe those bee-keepers do not know what they say; yet

dysentery is a fact too well known to be disputed. Ventilation, or warmth, have nothing to do with it, because they are set in their straw hives in the same rows with the other hives, and the ventilation and warmth is the same for all. This is a clear proof that "Novice" is right in saying that the nature of honey has much to do with it.

A Question. I should be glad to know—Does any bee-keeper's experience in warming his bee house, during a cold season in April, with his hives on the shelves, advise such treatment? Will any one give his experience on this matter in the BEE JOURNAL?

Will Gallup and Adair gives us a report of their apiaries with their 4 ft. hives?

Wequioick, Wis. JOSEPH DUFFELER.

For the American Bee Journal.

Bees in Aroostook Co., Me.

We have had a very poor season for bees in this county, the past summer; and the causes are very obvious. Last winter there was but very little snow and in consequence the spring frosts pulled up and killed all the white clover which is usually abundant in this vicinity, and from which our "little pets" gather the most of their honey. Leaving them but much else to gather from except the blossoms, which are not very plenty in this section, and dandelion. They were prevented from gathering honey from them by the excessive rains, which kept up a continual spatter all through the months of May and June, leaving nothing for them to gather until they got at a species of golden rod, from which they gathered a small amount. Very few colonies have gathered enough to winter on. Scarcely a hive has swarmed, and the hives on an average are lighter than they were last spring. Hundreds of colonies will swarm the coming winter if not fed.

This county has been, for the last ten years, the honey garden of Maine. But this year we are having a big share of "poor luck." If we keep our bees on "luck," this winter, I am convinced we shall lose most of them. It is so strange that those who keep bees do not inform themselves on bee culture, when they have a chance to take a paper like the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, that will repay them the subscription price every month, and scarce a volume since it was established but would pay a bee-keeper to lay by at five dollars each, for future reference.

Houlton, Maine.

R. S. TORREY.

For the American Bee Journal.

Breeding Peaceful Hybrids.

After carefully studying the natural history of the bees for some time I have come to the conclusion that the disposition of the workers depends altogether on the drones, and that there can be a cross made between the Italians and blacks, which will produce a race of bees as gentle as the pure Italians.

I began bee-keeping with a few stands of Italians and hybrids; the latter being the progeny of Italian queens which had mated with black drones. These I found to be very cross, which is the reported experience

of all who have kept them. The Italians were, as represented, gentle.

Last year, some of the old Italian queens, whose worker progeny were hybrids, were superceded and the young queens that were raised from them mated with Italian drones. This spring I found that the progeny of these queens had wintered better; also that the queens began to lay earlier, and were more prolific, and consequently were the first to raise drones and become strong enough to divide. These hybrids, unlike the others, were as gentle as the Italians. Several of my young Italian queens which I raised this summer have mated with drones which are the progeny of these queens, and the workers from this cross are also gentle.

I have never owned any black bees, but observing my neighbors, I find that the pure blacks are always cross compared with the Italians, but the progeny of a black queen which has mated with an Italian drone is gentle.

Thus I conclude that the worker bees which are the progeny of an Italian queen, a hybrid queen, or a black queen which has mated with an Italian drone, are gentle. Those who are the progeny of an Italian queen, or a black queen which has mated with a black drone are cross. Those which are from an Italian queen and a hybrid drone are gentle.

I have not had a chance to make any observation concerning the disposition of bees that are from a hybrid queen which has mated with a hybrid drone, but if my conclusions that the fighting qualities of the workers depend on the drone are correct, they will be as gentle as those of an Italian queen which has mated with a hybrid drone.

N. A.

For the American Bee Journal.

My Experience.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I am not in the habit of writing anything for publication, but as I am deeply interested on the bee question, perhaps a word from me would not be amiss. I am now 64 years old; have been raising bees since 1849; but my love for the little insect, whose life is so suggestive of industry and wisdom, is unabated. Last winter I lost between \$300 and \$500 worth of bees. Since that time, the season has been better, and I have averaged \$25 to the hive. Have been raising the Italian bees for 4 or 5 years. Am well pleased with them. I see them very busy sometimes, when the black bee is idle. I have sold the Italian bees for \$30, when the black bees could have been bought for \$5. I have been using the Langstroth hive since 1856, and think it the best I have ever seen.

Your JOURNAL is invaluable. I have been a subscriber to it from its infancy up to the present time. Its visits are like the visits of an old friend—always welcome. I wish you success. JOHN C. DAUGHERTY.

Owingsville, Bath Co., Ky.

Always have the cheerful rays of the morning sun fall upon your hives; but contrive to throw a shade upon their front for a few hours in the middle of the day, when the weather is very hot. Such a shade will be grateful to your bees.—Nutt.

For the American Bee Journal.
Honey Producing Plants.

We give a notation of honey-producing plants in the vicinity of Aurora, Marion Co., Oregon, for the year A. D., 1874;

FEBRUARY.

The willow was in bloom from Feb. 14 and continued to April 18.

The varionica from Feb. 16 to April 24.

Chick-weed, from Feb. 16 to May 20.

Hazel, from Feb. 28 to April 8.

MARCH.

Meadow-cress, March 16 to April 24.

Cedar, from March 16 to April 8.

Brush unknown, (No. 1) from March 20 to April 24.

Balm of Gilead, from March 20 to April 8.

Salmon berries, from March 28 to May 4.

Dandelion, from March 30 to July 12.

APRIL.

Peach, from April 1st to April 28.

Wild currants, from April 1 to May 18.

Oregon grapes, from April 4 to May 3.

Gossberries, from April 4 to May 10.

Plumbs, from April 1 to April 28.

Cherries, from April 9 to May 14.

Bear, from April 10 to May 6.

Soft maple, from April 10 to May 20.

Common currant, from April 11 to May 14.

Apples, from April 16 to May 18.

Prunes, from April 16 to May 3.

Vine maple, from April 18 to May 24.

Raspberries, from April 22 to June 3.

Iris grass, from April 23 to June 6.

White clover, from 25 to Oct 12.

June berries, from April 25 to May 22.

Sheep sorrel, from April 25 to Sept. 2.

MAY.

Oregon crab apple, May 3 to May 20.

Blackberries, May 6 to July 20.

Brush unknown (No. 2), from May 5 to May 28.

Barberry tree, from May 3 to July 10.

Red clover, from May 12 to Sept. 30.

Man-in-the-ground, from May 14 to July 25.

Thimbleberries, from May 14 to June 30.

White swale flowers, from May 14 to July 10.

Wild and cultivated camomile, from May 14 to Aug. 18.

Huckleberries, from May 10 to June 3.

The mallow flower family, from May 10 to September 25.

Laurel, from May 17 to June 20.

Alsike clover, from May 18 to September 1st.

Snowberries, from May 18 to July 16.

Brush unknown (No. 3.) from May 18 to June 20.

Thistle, from May 18 to Aug. 10.

Roses, from May 20 to July 25.

Umbelliferous family, from May 20 to August 10.

Salaberries, from May 23 to July 29.

Milk weed, May 28 to September 12.

JUNE.

Lobelia, from June 1 to July 30.

Flowers in swamps (unknown), from June 1 to August 15.

Common grape, from June 8 to July 10.

Spirea, from June 8 to July 20.

Heal-all, from June 15 to July 25.

Indian arrow-wood, from June 15 to July 25.

A little bell shaped flower (name unknown), from June 15 to July 24.

Elder, from June 18 to July 20.

Cat mint, from June 18 till heavy frost.

King's tapers, from June 22 till heavy frost.

Weeds in bottoms (unknown) from June 28 to September 1.

Various kinds of the mint family, from June 25 till frosts.

JULY.

Blackroot, from July 2 to August 25.

Corn, from July 8 to Aug. 20.

A vine in bottom (unknown) from July 12 to September 1.

AUGUST.

Ripe fruits commence, such as apples, pears, plums, etc., which bees work on when first pierced by birds or other animals; some last to winter.

Spanish needle from August 10 till heavy frosts appear.

Farm products that produce honey are successfully raised here, such as rape, buckwheat, etc.

SEPTEMBER.

A number of the above named flowers bloom again after the early fall rains and continue till the frosts kills them.

J. W. WILLS.

Wintering Bees in the South.

The great object of bee-keeping is the production of honey, and to promote this object successfully, is to provide suitable homes for the bees, and give them suitable care, both winter and summer. Man cannot change the season or the instinct of the bee, but he can provide suitable homes for them.

The necessary requisites for successful wintering are 1st. Plenty of good honey, not too much. 2d. Sufficient warmth, 3d. Pure air and dryness. Bees having a supply, and being provided with the above requisites, there need be no fear but they will winter successfully. They will generate their own warmth in the coldest weather. Should they remain on their summer stands they will get pure air, which is a great necessity to their prosperity. In the north it will be better to protect from the cold, by placing the hives against a tight board fence or a building. This will break off the bleak winds, and with a few boards to protect them from the sun, they will winter finely. Have a small upward ventilation, but guard against a current of air passing through the hive, and keep them dry.

Bees need but little care, comparatively speaking, to what they do in the North or West. They should have good honey and plenty of it; protect from the sun by giving them some cheap cover, which will prevent them from coming out every warm day; also it is a great saving in the consumption of honey. Bees need no mattresses to absorb the moisture arising from their breath. Where they can have a fly as they do in the South every few days, there is but little frost accumulates in the hive. The greatest destruction to the bees in winter is the dampness which accumulates in the hive, which occurs when a period of cold weather sets in for several days or weeks, without a warm day or two to give the bees a fly.—*Bee World.*

For the American Bee Journal.

Failures in Safely Wintering Bees— The Proposed Remedies.

There are about as many plans proposed for the proper wintering of bees as there are writers, and yet every winter shows the utter failure of nearly every plan. We have a great deal of theory, but very few facts. The few facts published are generally accounted for in the most unreasonable way. An old and much respected acquaintance once told me that a neighbor of his had lost all his bees. The reason was (he said) an old uncle had died in the family, and they forgot to tell the bees. The two circumstances did actually occur. His mistake was, supposing that one resulted from the other.

An old bee-keeper, and an intelligent one, lately asserted that uncapped honey was poisonous. His reason for saying so was that he had heard so, and once he became sick after eating uncapped honey. So with the failures in wintering bees. A few facts are observed, but they are supposed to be connected together in a very illogical manner. Thus, water is often found in the fall or winter in the hive, or the mats if used are partly saturated. Its presence is accounted for by supposing that the bees evaporate a large quantity, which afterwards condenses on the combs, and sometimes on the bees themselves, causes mould, disease and sometimes death. The mats are often shown, saturated, as an evidence, but my experience is that the moisture comes through leaky roofs. My blankets are covered with tarred paper, lying close upon them, yet the blankets are dry in damp weather, because the tarred paper sheds the rain.

Novice feeds a few swarms on sugar syrup, after extracting all the honey gathered in the fall, and they live through the winter. Many bee-keepers therefore conclude that all fall honey is unhealthy for the bees, and that they would have died, if they had not been supplied with sugar syrup. Straightway they adopt the infallible remedy of pumping out all fall honey and feeding up with artificial food. One or two winter's experience will kill that remedy.

Another bee-keeper says he does not want more than a pint or quart of bees to winter with. The difficulty here is to measure a pint of bees. It would be an interesting sight to see a man stuffing bees into a measure. How tight should he pack it, or rather how tight *would* he pack it. The trial would not last long and he would be as uncertain at last how many bees make a pint. I think he would find that a great many had *points* if they couldn't make a *pint*. The lookers on, if well protected would enjoy it.

Another bee-keeper surrounds each hive with a large box, and packs between with saw dust, straw, dry earth, chaff or other good non-conductors. Another puts his swarms in a dry cellar, moving them out and in on warm days to cleanse themselves as he imagines they must, and talks about their being swelled up with the enforced confinement of the feces within their bodies. Just imagine a dog swelled up to double size because he could not find a convenient door-step on which to make a deposit, or a man waling about with an apparently sudden attack of dropsy, because our city council has not provided a public water-closet.

Others build special houses to winter their bees in. Still others put on their hives, blankets and mats with special provision for ventilation, in the face of the facts that the bees, when they can, will stop air-tight every crevice except their entrance hole. If another hole is left two or three inches in diameter perhaps they will not close it because it is too big a job, but if the owner will put a piece of wire gauze on it, they will plaster it all over and make it air-tight.

The blankets and mats appear to be good, because they are non-conductors and not because they ventilate the hive or absorb the moisture. The latest, and therefore most approved, plan, is to winter bees under a cold frame, or, as the phrase is, *under glass*. That will have a run for a winter or two. A short time ago one of my acquaintances made an experiment which appeared to be successful. He surrounded one of his hives, early in the spring, with fresh manure, thus making a hot-bed of it. His intention was that the extra heat should start the queen to laying and aid in hatching out the brood. In this he succeeded very well. With a view to public benefit, he wrote a circumstantial account of it to a certain person who being of a volatile, sanguine, harum-scarum disposition immediately procured several loads of manure and buried up his whole apiary of fifty hives more or less. He published, from time to time, how he was progressing with this great invention, but suddenly his proclamations ceased and nobody knows from him, how it resulted. They only know that as usual his bees did not winter well or as it is now fashionable to say they did not *spring* well.

In considering the subject of wintering bees a good plan is to examine the condition and progress of the life of a swarm in a state of nature, and to ascertain what instinct teaches them to do. Art can only slightly improve on nature but cannot entirely change it. Bees in nature are generally found in hollow trees. It is not probable that many accurate observations have been made, but the best knowledge we have, is, that they select a home in the hollow of a tree, which hollow has resulted generally from decay.

These hollows are from one foot to perhaps fifty feet in length and of different diameters. The walls are generally in a decaying condition, being spongy, and full of air cells, thus making a first rate non-conductor. Here they work from year to year, no honey being taken away by man, comb accumulating every year until the whole cavity is filled and if the seasons are good the honey also accumulates, so that when a bad season happens they will have probably the surplus of several years to tide them over. If the cavity is large they probably never swarm, their numbers will increase according to the laying capacity of the queen. These several conditions always ensure large swarms and plenty of food. In such hives where is the ventilation? If there should be a hole above, which would happen maybe once in fifty times, such strong swarms would live in spite of its ventilation, but they would stop it up if possible.

If there is any superfluous moisture it may be taken up by the decaying wood lining the cavity, but there is probably no moisture. In human life there is so little extra moisture, that it requires accurate experiments to find it.

In what case of animal life does the moisture emanating from their bodies, condense to such an extent as to dampen and mould their beds? Then why should a swarm of bees be so exceedingly productive of water. From my reading, from conversations with bee-keepers and from my own small experience, I think I can point out the principal causes of our want of success in wintering.

The extended use of frame hives makes it so easy to take away honey that they are often left with insufficient stores. It is so easy to divide or swarm artificially, that in the fall our swarms are often too weak in bees, to keep up sufficient animal heat for winter. The beauty of the Italian queens and the apparent prosperity indicated by the number of swarms, hinder us from doubling up, consequently we are very likely to go into winter with a large number of weak swarms with insufficient food, and come out in spring with one half or one tenth of the number of weaker swarms in starving condition.

At the Pittsburgh Convention, on the discussion of the question whether it would pay to carry bees to a warmer climate to winter, bringing them back in the spring to this neighborhood, several old bee-keepers seemed to think that such a process would be useless, because nature provides that in very cold weather bees become torpid, and in that condition consume almost no food, and that the difficulty of wintering is not directly from the extreme cold but from the lack of means of resisting the effects of the cold.

My conclusion from all the foregoing is, that, if swarms are strong in numbers of bees in the fall, and have plenty of honey, all the difficulties of wintering would vanish. Therefore bee-keepers must avoid extracting honey to an extreme point. If they multiply swarms in summer beyond propriety, they must reduce the number in the fall by doubling up or joining to-gether.

It is much better to lose several queens in the fall, than to lose both bees and queens in the spring. If the swarms are strong in winter and have plenty of honey, all experience shows that the dangers from want of ventilation, extra moisture &c., are very small and very remote. Use as many blankets and other non-conductors as you please they are generally very useful, and strong swarms can stand a good deal of ventilation if your ideas run strongly in that direction.

Cincinnati. O.

H. W. S.

STANDARD FRAMES.—S. D. McLean, in the *Bee World*, says: "The size of a suspension frame I use in my own apiary is fourteen and one-quarter by nine and one-quarter inches, though not the size I prefer. Were I to commence anew I would make my frames fifteen by ten inches, exactly, outside measure, with three-fourths of an inch extension at each end of top bars to rest on the rabbets of the hive. I suggest that size to the advocates of a standard frame, as a compromise among the many now in use. The length would be about a medium between the Quinby and the Gallop frames—the longest and the shortest frames made—and the depth would be amply sufficient for brood combs, and not so deep as to be liable to swing together at the bottom or have the wavy combs in them."

For the American Bee Journal.

Answer to Mrs. Spaid's.

If the copy books of the Chicago Honey were not burned, Mrs. Spaid's would see that her answer to my inquiry of what they were paying for fall honey, was simply, "We are paying fifteen cents,"—without any condition of its being good. And as to my saying it was *nice*, I made no such assertion. When shipped to them, it was candied. They had it in their possession for several weeks, and when it was turned over to Perrine, it was thin and watery. How the change come, I cannot say. Has anyone ever known candied honey to turn thin and watery? My advise to bee keepers, and what I intend to do in future, is to keep the fall honey for winter supply, or increase of bees, and sell only the summer honey.

WILLIAM W. BIRD.

Napoleon, O.

HONEY DEW.—A. H. R. Bryant, Kaufman, Texas, says: "Some two years since I was attracted, by the hum of bees, to a box elder that stood in my yard, and when I looked for the cause, I found not only the leaves of the tree covered with honey dew, but the limbs, and also the weeds and the grass underneath, liberally covered with the honey dew. On my first examination I did not find the aphids, and came to the conclusion that it was sure enough, honey dew from the atmosphere; but on a closer inspection, I found the young, tender twigs—which are very green—litterly covered with a very green aphids, (plant louse), hence the abundance of the so-called honey dew, that was litterly dripping from the tree to the weeds and grass below."

TRAVELING APIARIES.—The New York *Tribune* says; "Some of our apiarians are talking of a wagon with frames for a large number of hives, that can be moved about from one location to another. The benefits claimed are to take advantage, first, of the maple and willow blooms; next come back to orchards and white clover; then off to the forest for the basswood and other flowers; then for the blossoms of the tulip tree, and finally back to the fields of buckwheat and flowers of Autumn. The plan has been pursued in a small way for some years."

In the ordinary glass honey boxes now in use, it requires about 35 cubic inches to hold a pound of honey. Larger boxes lose less space, and hence require a less number of cubic inches. Thus a box 4x5x6 inches contains 120 cubic inches, and, therefore, when well filled and sealed over, holds about 3½ pounds. A 5lb box requires about 33 inches to the pound, and a 10lb box about 30 cubic inches.

I get rid of fertile workers thus: Change places with a strong stock and let them remain a few days. Then open the hive, and if no eggs are found, I introduce a queen. I succeeded once in rearing a queen, having her fertilized, and remain in a stock with a fertile worker, and she did well. It was a stand of pure Italians, very quiet and peaceable.—W. H. Nicholson.

For the American Bee Journal.

Hives for the South.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Your correspondent "Edgefield," of South Carolina, wishes me to give a description of the hive I use and recommend for our climate. Now there are hardly two bee-keepers that entertain the same opinion in regard to the arrangement and construction of hives. What suits one does not suit another. While it is of the utmost importance to have our bees in a good hive, large yields of honey (other conditions being the same) are less dependent upon the sort of hive than upon right management of the bees.

While I believe it is impossible to construct a hive against which no objections can be urged, I think they can be made so that very little more need be desired. In making a hive for the South, an observance of the following principles and laws seem to be very essential:

1. Perfect adaptability of the hive to the instinct and habits of the bee.

2. Simplicity. All parts, including frames, must be so arranged as to admit of great ease in opening and closing. There should be no parts about it that cannot readily be gotten into, and examined when necessary. And all these arrangements must be made with special reference not to crush any bees, and to disturb them as little as possible.

3. Enlargement or contraction of the brood chamber at pleasure, so as to suit the size of the colony. There is much diversity of opinion in regard to what should be the size of the brood chamber. I find about 2,000 cubic inches to be a good size for a strong colony worked for box honey; if extracted, I prefer it at least 4,000 cubic inches.

4. Shallow frames, not deeper than the Langstroth. Small frames are desirable in the surplus department. These should be arranged immediately above or near the sides of the brood chamber. If boxes are preferred, place them the same. This is very important.

5. Good ventilation. In our climate we need the top of the hive to be kept well shaded and cool, particularly if we desire box honey. If this is neglected, the heat is often too great, and prevents the bees from working in boxes even in the midst of an abundant yield of honey. Shallow frames can be kept cooler than tall deep ones. Large roomy caps with ventilators attached are most excellent.

The hive I use is a modification of the Langstroth. The frames are $16\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ in. in the clear; open at top, with the exception of each end which keeps them equally distant apart. They are made to hang true, and rest on the edge of a strip of metal. I use no nails, wires, etc., to keep them apart at the bottom. Allow a half inch space around the ends and bottom of frame. Make all hives with tight bottom boards. The body of hive is 16 inches wide in the clear, with a division board. By pressing this board back against the side of hive, ample room is gained so that frames can be removed with great ease. There is a ventilator on the side of hive near the bottom, next the division board. This produces an upward current of air between the side and

division board, and also around the honey-boxes, through the cap.

My honey boxes have small frames in them which are in direct contact with the brood chamber, with no honey board between. When a colony is to be worked for extracted honey, I prefer them in long, one-story hives with 20 or 30 frames of the above size. Entrance only at one end. Keep the frames covered with a "honey quilt" made out of gunny bagging. Hive is covered with a shallow cap with ventilators at both ends. With these hives the bees do not hang out in the hottest weather.

For the information of all concerned I will say that there are no patents on the above described hive. J. F. H. BROWN, Augusta, Ga.

Voices from Among the Hives.

JOHN L. DAVIS, Delhi, Michigan, writes:—"We commenced this season with forty-seven hives of pure Italian bees, and have obtained 2,500 lbs. of comb, and 500 of machine honey, and sixty-six new swarms or nucleus. We sold seventy queens, and several swarms also. By the middle of September every hive, both large and small, was crowded with honey, except three or four that were hived about the 8th or 10th of September. While trying to obviate, or avoid, the cutting of comb in queen raising, we have discovered that we can, with a pointed instrument, remove the worker larvae from the worker cells, and introduce them into incipient queen cells, and the bees will raise them into nice queens. This we call the Davis transportation process. It can be done in any queenless colony, and in very populous ones that do not swarm when they should, which is the case with black bees, frequently."

W. D. WRIGHT, Knowerville, N. Y., writes:—"The past season has been an excellent one for bees in this section, and honey is very plenty, and low in price. Basswood yielded more honey than for several seasons past. Bees swarmed abundantly in general. To have had such poor success for several seasons past in wintering bees on their summer stands, that I concluded to try some other way. I have built a repository similar to Novice's. Size 12×14 feet, walls 12 inches thick, filled with saw dust, material: cost about \$125.

If I fail to winter bees successfully in this, I will at least have a good building in which to extract and store surplus honey."

M. H. MILSTEN, Frohna, Mo., writes:—"I commenced in the spring with 21 stocks, most of them very weak; increased to 25 strong ones. From these I took almost 1,400 lbs. of extracted honey, besides running my farm. I had the pleasure of visiting some apiaries this fall, one of which was Dadant & Son's, of whom I purchased a small stock of bees with an imported queen."

THOMAS FROST, Gillespie, Ill., writes:—"The past season has been very dry till August. The rains then started white clover and other blooms so that bees filled their stands, and some of the stronger worked in boxes. The bees are all black in our neighborhood; the season was very poor till the fall blooms came on, then it was only an ordinary season."

L. C. AXTELL, Roseville, Ill., writes:—"Bees have done very poorly in this vicinity for the past three years. Nearly all the bees that have had no care have died off. I have been keeping bees for two years. Last year they had no honey harvest, I fed considerable. I think their increase paid me for their food, and the labor of taking care of them. This year no harvest but buckwheat, which yielded bountifully. From 24 colonies I got 23 swarms and 1500 lbs. extracted honey, which retails at 25 cents per lb. I do not know of a natural swarm that will live through the winter."

J. B. RAPP, Ownsville, Ohio, writes:—"I am very much pleased with the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL; you can count me as one of your life subscribers. I would not do without it if it cost twice or three times as much as it does. This is a poor honey section. Our main dependence is white clover, and the drouth usually cuts it short. I have thirty colonies, about half of them are Italians, and all but one are in movable comb hives. They have an abundance of honey, and although a part of them are not as strong in numbers as I would like, yet I think I can winter them safely. I carried twenty colonies that were much weaker and had but little honey through last winter and lost but one, and that starved. I bought a weak stock at a sale, this month for ten cents. A neighbor gave me two last evening; all were good swarms when put in hives. Last spring I bought four good stocks for \$10

L. W. HARRINGTON, Clyde, Ohio, writes:—"The AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is the best paper published. In it farmers can find information that they can rely upon, and not too much theory and wild-goose speculation; and bee-keepers that make a specialty of the business, can procure information that is practical. I have stored my bees in my grainery and barn, have given them ventilation above and below that they may know that they are not prisoners. This grainery is not very cold as it is double boarded, and I make this part dark."

ALBERT BULL, Bloomfield, Ont., writes:—"I feel thankful for past instructions from your valuable paper, hoping that I may receive more. I have done well this season with my bees. I have 48 swarms. I extracted 4,350 lbs. from 31 swarms, commencing July 29, and finishing August 18."

G. E. CORBIN, St. Johns, Mich., writes: "I observe on page 251, of November number of AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, that L. F. asks: 'Why do bees *always* use the left hand hole for ventilation?' Being something of a yankee—which I suppose implies one with 'an inquisitive turn of mind'—I should like to reply to his question by asking another: Why do shades 'always' climb sign-posts, 'tail first'?"

B. FRANKLIN, Franklinton N. Y.:—"I lived in Iowa two years, I was in the bee business there, bought 9 hives, paid \$60; kept them 2 weeks, brimstoned them, sold the honey in Davenport, lost \$35.00, went to Wisconsin, came back here, started in the business and kept it up. Came out with 47 hives last spring, some very weak ones increased so that I have 86 now, and have taken 3000 lbs. of honey this season 2150 lbs. of it box honey in 2 lb boxes, the rest ex-

tracted. I have a very simple hive; my frames are 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inside frame, use from 8 to 22 frames in a hive; they open like the leaves of a book, stood up on end. I have seen a great many different kinds of hives, but I have not seen one that I can open and change combs, or do anything I want to, as in this hive, for boxes. I put boxes on the back end of frame and on top, some on three sides and on top. I have 15 hives that I box on 3 sides, these I winter out-doors with chaff around and on top. I wintered some 50, which came out in splendid condition, comb all bright and nice. I see some are in for a standard frame 12x12. Mine is near that; I have no trouble to get straight combs without elevating the hive, either. I have a thin strip in the top bar sometimes they will build the comb over half way down, before they will touch the top bar. I have transferred quite a number of common hives and find this size frame is just right. I don't have any trouble to get the combs in all right."

M. C. H. PURYEAR, Franklin, Tenn., writes:—"I do not keep bees for profit, but as a luxury; have fourteen colonies, give the increase to an old friend who takes charge and manages them, who is engaged in bee-business as a support in old age. I give him my JOURNAL; he files it away and prizes it next to his Bible. I have no white family: all on the farm except myself, are negroes, most of whom belonged to me before the war. After supplying the family with honey, I distribute the surplus gratuitously among my neighbors. I have a substantial and permanent shelter over my bees, which protects them from the cold and rain and snow of winter. I never move them from their summer situation and have never lost a colony from exposure to the winter's cold."

HENRY FAULS, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, makes the following exhibit:—"He says 'a lady can take care of ten swarms, with less labor than is required to take care of an ordinary lot of house plants. Fauls' number of swarms last spring was nine; valued at \$10 per swarm, \$90. The increase was six swarms—total fifteen swarms. He sold eight swarms for \$80; two hundred and forty-one pounds of honey, at 35 cents per lb. \$84.35. He saved for his own use thirty pounds valued at \$10.50, making a total realized of \$174.85. He has seven swarms on hand valued at \$70, making \$244.85, and the original cost being \$90, leaves Mr. Fauls a net gain of \$154.85."

M. VOGLE, a pioneer at the head of Pine Lake, Mich., writes:—"THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL is a very welcome visitor at my house. May it prosper forever."

JOHN L. CRABB, Onawa, Iowa, writes: "I am highly pleased with the consolidation of the National with the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. I commenced last spring with eleven stands and increased to over thirty, and took several pounds of surplus honey, both extracted and box. It would make you laugh to see my honey extractor. It did not cost me anything, only a little time. I can make one in half a day, that will sling a barrel a day."

J. W. MCKINNEY, M. D., Camargo, Ill., writes:—"The present consolidated form of the 'JOURNAL' is not to be excelled by any publication on aparian literature in America."

American Bee Journal.

THOMAS G. NEWMAN, MANAGER.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Single subscriber, one year.....	\$2.00
Two subscribers, sent at the same time.....	3.50
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Six subscribers, sent at the same time.....	9.00
Ten subscribers, sent at the same time.....	14.00
Twenty subscribers, sent at the same time..	25.00

Send a postage stamp for a sample copy.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR 1875.

SPACE.	1 Mo.	2 Mos	3 Mos	6 Mos	1 Year.
1 Inch.....	\$2 00	\$3 00	\$5 00	\$8 00	\$12 00
1½ Inch.....	2 50	4 00	6 00	9 00	15 00
2 Columns.....	3 00	5 00	7 00	10 00	20 00
2½ Columns.....	6 00	10 00	15 00	20 00	30 00
3 Columns.....	7 00	12 00	17 00	25 00	40 00
3½ Columns.....	8 00	15 00	20 00	40 00	70 00
1 Column.....	10 00	18 00	25 00	45 00	85 00
2 Page.....	12 00	20 00	30 00	55 00	100 00
1 Page.....	16 00	30 00	45 00	80 00	150 00

Next page to Business Department and fourth and last page of cover, double rates.

Bills of regular Advertising payable quarterly, if inserted three months or more. If inserted for less than three months, payable monthly. Transient advertisements, cash in advance. We adhere strictly to our printed rates.

Address all communications and remittances to
THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CONTENTS.

Bees and Flowers at Sydenham.....	5
Notes and Queries.....	7
Foreign Department.....	9
The Hen and Honey Bee.....	10
Handling Bees.....	10
Success in Raising Honey.....	10
Eccentric.....	11
Home-made Bee Hive.....	12
A few Remarks.....	12
Superior Fiddlesticks.....	13
New Bee Pasturage.....	13
Upright Ventilation.....	14
Queen Raising.....	14
The Tulip Tree again.....	14
Alsike Clover in the South.....	15
Whistling down Swarms.....	15
Dysentery again.....	15
Bees in Aroostook Co., Maine.....	16
Breeding Peaceful Hybrids.....	16
My Experience.....	16
Honey Producing Plants.....	17
Wintering Bees in the South.....	17
Safely Wintering Bees.....	18
Answer to Mrs. Spaid.....	19
Hives in the South.....	20
Voices from Among the Hives.....	20

We have received so many flattering encomiums on our Chromo "JUST ONE" from our subscribers who have received it, that they would fill a number if we should attempt to print them. We appreciate the letters, but cannot publish them for want of space.

For the American Bee Journal. For Lectures.

MR. NEWMAN: Dear Sir, According to your remarks and those of Mr. H. A. King, I see there is room for bids for those who are willing to accept a chance to lecture on apiculture. Put me down on the lowest seat, of that list, "for lectures." My time is precious and valuable and I have engagements now until Jan. 22nd, but I am always willing to do my part with common labor of that class called bee-keepers. I would say to those interested, enquire of Mr. H. A. King, New York; J. W. Winder, Cincinnati, O.; or Mrs. E. S. Tupper, Des Moines, Iowa, concerning my ability, as they are practical apiarists. My terms are R. R. and hotel fare from Pittsburgh, Pa. It takes two days and costs \$5 to go to and from my place to Pittsburgh, but call Pittsburgh my starting point. I will go anywhere in the United States, and no other charges unless it requires more than three days from time of leaving Pittsburgh, until I return there; and for all time over that, I must charge \$5 per day. I don't ask anything in advance, but the payment of charges must be secured by deposit in a bank of sufficient amount for expenses to my credit, to be paid on presentation of receipted bills of R. R. and hotel. Best to organize in the morning, have a general talk in the afternoon, lecture in the evening and follow by queries. I will stay longer and give practical lessons, at \$5 per day. Notice should be given in time, if practical lessons are wanted.

Simpson's Store, Pa. W. B. RUSH.

We have concluded to continue our offer of the beautiful Chromo, "JUST ONE," to all who will pay up at once for the year 1875, and also to all new subscribers for 1875.

One of our advertisers writes us that he gets more answers to his advertisement in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL than from all other papers put together.

We have received a report of the Michigan Bee-Keepers' Convention. It was received too late for this issue and will appear in the February number.

That excellent monthly *Purdy's Fruit Recorder* has been removed to Rochester, New York, where it will be published in future.

We do not give our Chromo when subscribers club with other publications, unless they add 25 cents to the amount of the club subscriptions, and say they want the Chromo.

When a subscriber sends money in payment for the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, he should state to what time he thinks it pays, so that we can compare it with our books, and thus prevent mistakes.

To Our Patrons and Friends.


At its last session, Congress passed a new law, making it obligatory on publishers to prepay postage on all the papers and publications sent out from their offices, to take effect on the 1st of January, 1875. Then, instead of individuals paying the postage on their papers at the office of receiving them, the publishers are required to pay the postage in bulk, and charge the same to subscribers, with the subscription price.

We have concluded not to ask the additional price of postage from our subscribers, and hope that they will so far appreciate their having no postage to pay in future, as to send us a new subscriber when renewing for next year.

We send all papers until a specific order is received for a discontinuance, but promptly stop it when notified.


If there should be one of our present subscribers who does not wish to take the BEE JOURNAL for 1875, he should notify us at once, so that we may not waste papers and pay postage too, on any one not desiring to "ride with us" another year.

We ask especial attention to this Notice. It will be quite a tax on us to pay postage on all our entire edition, and any assistance in the way of new subscribers will be duly appreciated and acknowledged.

Mr. H. A. King has disposed of his interest in the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* to Mr. Cobb, to whom we extend our  for a welcome.

In this No. we issue the Title and Index for Vol. X. By cutting the stitch it can be taken out and placed at the beginning of Vol. X for binding, and reference. The extreme length of the Pittsburgh Meeting report crowded it out of the last number.


John K. McAllister & Co., are our duly authorized agents for the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, at Room 27, Tribune Building, Chicago, with whom any business may be transacted with our approval, and be promptly recognized by the manager of this paper.

 We ask our patrons to assist us by procuring new subscribers among their friends or neighbors, and thus increase the usefulness of the JOURNAL. By getting two new subscribers you can get all three for the year 1875 for \$5. This may be divided among the three, or you can get your own copy for \$1. Larger clubs would make your subscription still less. See club terms on page 28.

Honey Markets.



CHICAGO.—Choice white comb honey, 82@30c; fair to good, 24@28c. Extracted, choice white, 14@16c; fair to good, 10@12c; strained, 8@10c.

CINCINNATI.—Quotations from Chas. F. Muth, 976 Central Ave.


Comb honey, 15@35c, according to the condition of the honey and the size of the box or frame. Extracted choice white clover honey, 16c.  lb.

ST. LOUIS.—Quotations from W. G. Smith, 419 North Main st.

NEW YORK.—Quotations from E. A. Walker, 135 Oakland st., Greenport, L. I.

White honey in small glass boxes, 25c; dark 15@20c. Strained honey, 8@12c. Cuban honey, \$1.00  gal. St. Domingo, and Mexican, 90@95  gal.

SAN FRANCISCO.—Quotations from Stearns and Smith, 423 Front st.

 Strained Southern Coast, at 7@10c; Comb, 12@20c; the latter figure for San Diego, in Harbison frames.

About one hundred and twenty-five tons of honey has been shipped East this season. Our market is firm at 7@10 cents for strained; with some fancy lots at 12@12½c. Comb 18@20c for San Diego. Gold quotations. We have had abundant rains, the grass is several inches high, with some flowers, and a we have had but light frosts, bees are working, and with a good prospect of an abundant season. We shall ship fresh butter East next month. Surely this is a land flowing with milk and honey.

Our Premium Chromo—"Just One."

It is a beautiful design, and one of the finest and richest paintings that has come from the easel of that popular painter, B. S. Hays. The central figure is a beautiful child, (a little girl) who stands by a side-board loaded with fruits, (apples, peaches, and grapes), one foot is advanced forward, which brings the other on tip-toe—one hand is grasping the edge of the side-board, and the other reaching up for the basket of grapes; and two plump fingers are in the act of closing upon one large luscious berry. Her face is turned toward you, and wears a look of commingled mischief, anxiety and entreaty, and you can almost hear her say, "Just One." This picture is a complete story of the child's temptation, and her struggles to resist, through her awakening sense of right.

To every new subscriber as well as every old one who now pays for 1875, we will send post-paid, a copy of this beautiful Chromo.

Send on your new names and renewals at once and secure it.

Those who have paid for a portion of the year can secure the Chromo, upon sending the balance for the year 1875.

A Letter from the Rev. W. F. Clarke informs us that he cannot now take the lecture field as intimated in our last. His time being fully occupied by other cares.

Specimen Copies.

In order to assist our friends in procuring new subscribers, we will send specimen copies to those that they intend to call upon, if they will send us their names and addresses. It will take but a little time to get parties to subscribe when they see our paper. There are thousands of bee-keepers all over the country who take no bee journal and consequently are uninformed concerning scientific bee-keeping. These should all be solicited to take THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and the thousands who now read and prize the JOURNAL can easily reach them. Will they not do it? Every one who reads this is specially solicited to act as an agent, and present the claims of THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. We feel assured that they will do it. A few hours time from each, devoted to the interests of THE JOURNAL will add thousands to our list.

To any person sending us a club of ten, with \$14, we will send a copy of THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL one year free, and also the Chromo. To any one sending us a club of twenty with \$25 we will send a copy of Worcester's Unabridged Dictionary in addition to a free copy of THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and Chromo.

The *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* of last month said it contained the only report of the late meeting at Pittsburgh, Pa. A postal card from the publisher, states that it was an error to say "the only report." Our report last month was a fuller report of the proceedings than any other paper contained.

The offer of premium queens is now withdrawn, as we cannot supply Spring queens for that purpose.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, Mass., has his annual advertisement in our columns. He was the original introducer of some of the best vegetables now found on every table. He comes this year with a new squash, and a number of tempting specialties, some of which are finely illustrated from engravings taken from photographs. The fact that so many of his varieties of seed are of his own growing, is a golden fact for farmers and gardeners.

Books for Bee-Keepers may be obtained at this office.

Not one letter in ten thousand is lost by mail if rightly directed.

Our New Club Rates.

We will send the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and the following periodicals for one year, for the prices named below:

THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and Novice's Gleanings for.....	\$2.25
King's Bee-Keepers' Magazine.....	3.00
Moon's Bee World.....	3.25
All four Bee publications.....	5.00
Swine and Poultry Journal.....	2.50
The Chicago Weekly Tribune.....	3.20
The "Weekly Inter-Ocean.....	3.20
The "Weekly Journal.....	3.20
The "Weekly Post and Mail.....	3.20
The Western Rural.....	3.70
The Young Folks' Monthly.....	3.00
The Prairie Farmer.....	3.70
Purdy's Fruit Recorder.....	2.25

Newspaper Decisions.

1. Any person who takes a paper regularly from the post-office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it, until payment is made, and collect the whole amount—whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

3. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

It will be a source of gratification to us if all those in arrears for the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL will settle the same as soon as possible. Our increasing circulation vastly increases our regular monthly expenses for paper and printing. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

Single copies of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL are worth 20 cents each.

Upon the wrapper of every copy of the JOURNAL will be found the date at which subscriptions expire.

Any numbers that fail to reach subscribers by fault of mail, we are at all times ready to send, on application, free of charge.

Our subscribers in Europe, can now procure Postal Money Orders on Chicago. This plan of sending money is safe and economical.

Subscribers wishing to change their post-office address, should mention their old address, as well as the one to which they wish it changed.

Persons writing to this office should either write their Name, Post-office, County and State plainly, or else cut off the label from the wrapper of their paper and enclose it.

JOURNALS are forwarded until an explicit order is received by the publishers for the discontinuance, and until payment of all arrearages is made as required by law.

FARM FOR SALE.

THE BEE FARM of Mr. Thomas Hare, situated on the main road between Cedar Rapids and Marion, Linn County, Iowa, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the first place and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the latter, containing 130 acres. The highway makes an even division of the farm into North and South. The 60 acres South is plow and grass land and has an excellent location, being situated between two railroad towns. The 60 acres North is timber excepting about 15 acres, two buildings, garden and orchard. The timber is of good growth, and principally of Ash, Hickory and Oak, and well watered. The buildings are well adapted and commodious and consist of dwelling house, 22x40, two stories, also a wing 15x22, of one story. Stable and barn 45x50, with fifteen feet walls above basement stable. Bee cellar 14x16. A well at the house and barn. This farm, for location and richness of soil cannot be excelled in the county. It will pay a good interest on \$100 per acre and can be bought for much less. Owner desires to go to the Pacific coast. Apply to the owner. Address at Marion or Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa. nov2m



My annual catalogue of Vegetable and Flower Seed for 1875, will be ready by Jan. 1st for all who apply. Customers of last season need not write for it. In it will be found several valuable varieties of new vegetables introduced for the first time this season, having made new vegetables a specialty for many years. Growing over a hundred and fifty varieties on my several farms, I would particularly invite the patronage of market gardeners and all others who are especially desirous to have their seed pure and fresh, and of the very best strain. All seed sent out from my establishment are covered by three warrants as given in my catalogue.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY, Marblehead, Mass.

FARMER'S JOURNAL

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ALEX. CHARLES, Editor.
Liberal Cash Commissions to Agents.

Tulip Trees.

We can furnish young trees of the Poplar or Tulip Tree at low prices, in any quantity. They will be sent by one who has experience in the business, and packed in such a manner as will secure success. Full directions and particulars furnished to any one wishing to purchase. Address,

Italian Bee Co.
Des Moines, Iowa.

Keokuk & Des Moines Railway.

No. 132. TIME TABLE. 1874.

WESTWARD. LEAVE.		Taking Effect Nov. 22		EASTWARD. ARRIVE.	
No. 3.	No. 1.	No. 2.		No. 4.	
7:35 p.m.	7:30 a.m.	Keokuk	3:50 p.m.	4:15 a.m.	
9:05 "	9:07 "	Farmington	2:15 "	2:35 "	
9:42 "	9:55 "	Summit	1:30 "	1:35 "	
10:25 "	10:52 "	Eldon	12:40 "	12:35 "	
11:05 "	11:50 "	Ottumwa	12:00 m.	11:30 "	
11:47 "	12:30 p.m.	Eddyville	10:55 "	10:15 "	
11:50 "	12:35 "	Transfer	10:50 "	10:10 "	
12:10 a.m.	12:55 "	Oskaloosa	10:25 "	9:47 "	
12:55 "	1:33 "	Pella	9:40 "	9:00 "	
2:45 "	3:12 "	Altoona	7:47 "	7:05 "	
3:20 "	3:40 "	ar. Des M.	lv. 7:15 a.m.	6:30 p.m.	

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